

THE MORNING NEWS

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New entrance inaugurated at the Marines Corps in Savaneta



Aruba granted Pre-Clearance facility for private planes

ORANJESTAD -- Recently, tourism, commercial and general goal for Aruba was achieved. Together with the Department of Customs & Border Protection (CBP) of the USA, Aruba officially opened the USA Pre-Clearance facility at the Universal Aviation terminal. This facility will provide the service of the inspection of Immigration and Customs to private planes heading to the USA. This is an important extension to the facility in existence at the International Reina Beatrix Airport.

Dylan di Fransisci, director of the Pre-Clearance for



Customs and Border Protection (CBP), indicated in a brief speech, "...It is tremendous to be here today for the cutting of the ribbon of this facility for general aviation." Di Fransisci was part of the planning and development of this project during the past

six years. He said, "I spent four years of my life living on this glorious island and working with the government of Aruba and the airport authorities."

"We have worked hard on insuring that this facility complies with the standard of CBP to support our mission of national security and to so extend our frontiers further," according to Fransisci. Fransisci was grateful for the support of Claudio Stamper of Universal Aviation Aruba N.V., which is the company that manages the general aviation terminal.

There are currently 16 points of American Pre-Clearance in the Caribbean, Ireland, Middle East and Canada. This facility is in 6 different countries and 7 time different time zones. The first is in Toronto and the most recent was opened in Abu Dhabi.

This facility in Aruba has a space of 225m², which represents a sizeable investment for the company.

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Dununman celebrates life and possibilities on Down Syndrome Day

Friday, March 21st was World Down Syndrome Day, and School Dununman, a kindergarten/elementary school for special education, took the international theme "Lots of Socks," to heart, but with a distinct variation.



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DIMAS announces tourism stay over policy changes!

ORANJESTAD -- The government has recently introduced changes in the policy regarding tourism stay over on the island. The Department of DIMAS has recently published a bulletin informing the public of these changes.

A tourist is anyone visiting Aruba to relax, do sport, for medical purposes, to visit family or friends, for religious reasons, or to do business. A tourist is not allowed to work while on Aruba as a tourist. Any tourist caught working while vacationing here, will be deported. And, the employer of such a tourist will be levied a fine for employing the tourist.

The amount of days that a tourist may be given by the immigration to reside on the island is 30 consecutive days. In the majority of cases 30 days is more than sufficient. And, the tourist need not request any more days on the island before returning to his

country of residence. In a few cases the tourist may want more than 30 days. In such a case he will have to submit a special petition to DIMAS. This petition must be submitted before his time allotted by the Immigration has expired.

What does DIMAS require for an extension of a tourists stay (up to a maximum of 90 days from date of entry)?

- A petition form available online at www.dimasaruba.com
- Copy of passport valid for at least 3 months (of all pages with rubberstamp and visa)
- Copy of valid airline ticket with departure date
- Copy of travel insurance (valid for the required extension time)
- Copy of ID card (both sides)
- Proof of hotel/resort reservation or use of own property on Aruba

Continued on page 3

New entrance inaugurated at the Marines Corpse in Savaneta



SAVANETA -- The entrance to the Marine Corps had been closed for some time during the renovation process. They can now boast of a more presentable entrance, according to Jan ten Hove, Commander of the Marines Corps on Aruba.

Present at the ceremonies were uniform groups who

work directly with the Marines Corpse, such as the Coast Guard. With this new primary entrance, Aruba and the Marine Corps are presenting a more professional image which correlates with the developments on the island, according to ten Hove. It also correlates with the plans of the Camp to be more visible to the community. It is to improve our position and re-enforce the stability and security of Aruba. The Commander also had words of praise for our local marines AruMil. They are the ones who ensure the daily security of the Marines Camp.

One of the changes made

during the construction is the move of the cannon from outside of the border to inside the fence. The canon, belonging to the Hr. Ms van Kinsbergen, was given to Aruba on the 23rd of March back in 1942 for helping with the protection of Aruba's harbor.

The governor of Aruba, Fredis Refunjol together with Ten Hove pressed the button to open the gate of the new entrance while members of the corpse marched through the Camp as the Prime Minister observed the procession. The ceremony was concluded with a lunch offered by Commander Ten Hove to all his invited guests.

Pre-Clearance facility ..

Continued from page 1

Also CBPhas expanded their personnel for the island from 21 to 24 agents. In this manner they are complying with the growth demand here at the Aruba International airport in Aruba. James T. Grimes is the Port Director of US Pre-Clearance in Aruba.

The government of Aruba

is very proud with this yet another goal for the enhancement of our tourism and to offer this excellent opportunity to our private planes en route to the USA. This facility also provides an added value to the goal of Aruba becoming a hub to the Caribbean and Europe.

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China, the Netherlands to build open, pragmatic partnership

THE HAGUE -- China and the Netherlands decided yesterday to build a comprehensive partnership that stresses openness and pragmatism, according to a joint statement issued by the two countries.

The decision was made at a meeting between visiting Chinese President Xi Jinping and Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte, during which the two leaders exchanged in-depth views on bilateral and China-EU relations, and

reached important consensus in this regard.

In his proposals for the development of bilateral relations, Xi called for continued high-level exchanges, mutual respect and trust, as well as respect for each other's core interests and major concerns.

The Netherlands will open a consulate general in China, which will boost the exchanges and cooperation between the Netherlands and the central and western areas of China

Dununman celebrates life and possibilities on Down Syndrome Day

PIEDRA PLAT -- Friday, March 21st was World Down Syndrome Day, and School Dununman, a kindergarten/elementary school for special education, took the international theme "Lots of Socks," to heart, but with a distinct variation. In Aruba's tropic climate, wearing several layers of socks is not quite practical; they preferred instead to "Rock the Socks" off all those joining them for their observance of the day.

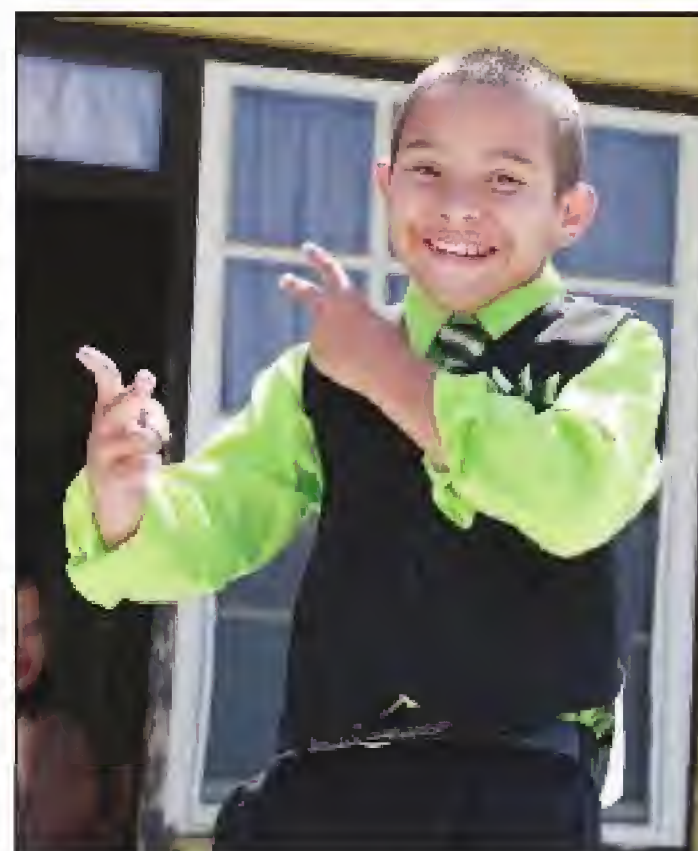
Dununman (which means "give a hand" in Papiamentu) Director Sharline Geerman-Rodriguez lauded the efforts of teachers Daniela and Jean-nice, joined by one of the parents, Mrs. Geerman, in organizing and conducting a joyful morning celebrating life and how much children with learning needs can enjoy and achieve.

Dununman has 63 students with special educational needs, of which eight have Down Syndrome. They work with those that have borderline IQ's or higher, like autistic children, who need particular attention, but have the capacity to finish school and lead relatively normal lives.

World Down Syndrome Day (WDSD) is a global awareness day which has been officially observed by the United Nations

since 2012. Down Syndrome International (DSi) encourages groups and sympathizers around the world to choose your own activities and events to help raise awareness of what Down syndrome is, what it means to have Down syndrome, and how people with Down syndrome play a vital role in communities.

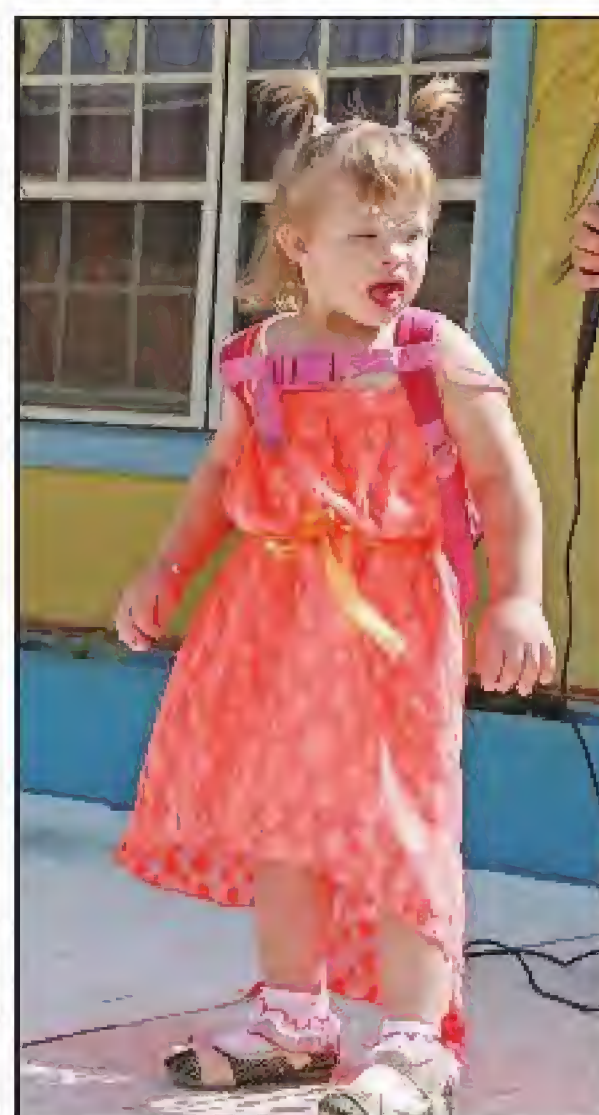
Dununman hosted a boisterous fashion show, with



garments provided for the boys and girls by Giselle Department Store in Noord. L'Amethyst Boutique in Madiki supplied the fashions for the participating teachers.

Ranging in age from toddler to teenager, Genesis, Nadine, Angie, Naim, Regina, Shwandree, Tanique and Jake cut elegant figures as they paraded down the red carpet to Shakira and "Waka Waka (This time for Africa)" unquestionably setting a perfect beat to match the ebullient mood of the morning.

Delighted with the display of sartorial splendor was Director of the Foundation for the Mentally Challenged, Arturo Werleman, and visiting Parliamentarian Lorna Varlack. They agreed, the stylish show definitely "rocked their socks off!"



Early Bird Menu

5:30 pm - 7:00 pm



Appetizers: Stuffed Avocado, Escargots Bourguignon, (choose one) Fruits of the Seven Seas, Choices of Soups

Entrees: Breaded Grouper topped with coconut shrimps served with rice and vegetables

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Santa Rosa with more than 10.000 trees to be planted during 2014

ORANJESTAD -- Santa Rosa has embarked on a beautiful project designed to provide the community with fresh fruits for the enjoyment of our island and in a sustainable way. The project was initiated back in 2012 when 100 fruit trees were planted at the residences in Cura Cabay. During the year Santa Rosa delivered different trees to various schools, children and senior centers, foundations and planted some 1000 fruit trees in all.

In 2013 10,000 trees were also planted at Fatima Col-



lege and Linear Park where 200 fruit trees were planted

such as mango trees, sea grapes, Breba, Kibrahacha,

Mahok, and many others.

For 2014 the project will

continue. There are many places on their long list to receive fruit trees. YMCA San Nicolas and Monumentenzorg, school Kudawecha is on the list. Centro Colorado will also get their share of trees.

Santa Rosa not only provides the trees, but also helps in the planning of the infrastructure and provides advice for the best possible plantation of these trees. Undoubtedly, a tremendous and beautiful project from which we will soon see and reap the fruits of.

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Loyal visitors honored at the Marriott Surf Club



Recently, the Aruba Tourism Authority honored a group of loyal friends as Distinguished Visitors of Aruba. The honorees were Mr. Dave and Mrs. Sherrill Hamman from Fortwayne Indiana, and Mr. Mark and Mrs. Sheila Davidson from Ankeny IA.

The honorees are loyal members of the Marriott Surf Club. According to them staying at the Surf Club is like being home for them.

The certificates were presented to them by Mr. Ernest Giel representing the Aruba Tourism Authority together with the Hamman family and Ms. Jenny Boekhoudt and Mr. Joop Bangma GM from the Marriott Surf Club.



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Tourism stay over policy changes

Continued from page 2

If the tourist is staying with family or friends, they will be held responsible for his guarantee and must sign for all expenses that may arise during his guest's stay. That person must appear personally at DIMAS together with the tourist to submit additional information:

- A guarantee statement (available on www.dimasaruba.com) legalized at the Palace of Justice in Santa Cruz (DWJZ)
- Copy of passport (valid for more than 3 months and only the page with the passport photo on) of the guarantor
- If the guarantor is a licensee, a copy of his valid license (must earn minimum wage) is required
- Both the guarantor and the tourist must be present at the DIMAS offices when filing a petition for stay over extension.

Go online for a list of the additional information required.

DIMAS office hours are: Monday to Thursday from 7:30 to 11:00 and 1:00 to 3:30 pm. Fridays from 7:30 to 11:00 are; General service hours are from 7:30 to 12:00 and from 1:00 to 4:30pm.

As of April 1st it is no longer possible to extend a tourist's stay beyond 90 days for a maximum of 180 days. There may be exceptions within the confines of the law. Persons of Dutch nationality and those who have property here may be granted an extension of up to 180 days consecutively.

For more information, please consult the website www.dimasaruba.com or call during office hours, tel. 522-1500.

Curacao invites Arubans to enjoy the amenities of their neighboring island

ORANJESTAD-- On Thursday, March 20, Curacao Tourist Board Marketing Manager for the Caribbean, Janine Neef-de Windt, welcomed local media to the Epilicious dining room at the EPI Tourism and Hospitality Sector for an introduction to the many assets of Aruba's sister island of Curacao. Similar, but different, it provides an easily accessible change of pace for Arubans seeking a weekend getaway or extended vacation that is more within their budget. Noted resorts on the island, such as the Plaza Hotel and the soon-to-open Acoya, collaborated on the presentation, including special offers for residents of the Dutch Caribbean.

Curacao is a far larger island than Aruba with a more distinctive Dutch influence reflected in its architecture and the culture of its people. It is particularly attractive to Dutch vacationers. It has been placing a great deal of attention on developing its tourism product of late, and all presenters expressed that Aruba is an important market, hoping to see their neighbors come to enjoy the island's many assets. Curacao has expanded its annual event calendar with several important festivals, including the noted Caribbean version of the North Sea Jazz Festival, which they feel are also very attractive to Arubans who only have to fly 20 minutes to attend.

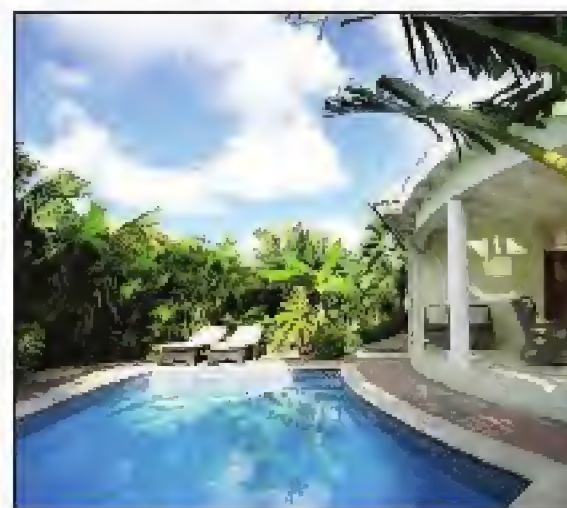
Sue-Yen Marchena reminded her audience of the place the Plaza Hotel has maintained as Curacao's first major resort, centrally located in the capital of Willemstad. Sitting at the en-



Sue Yen Marchena, Janine Neef de Windt and Henry Martijn

trance of the St. Anna Bay harbor, guests are immersed in the most historic areas of the island, with easy access by foot to major museums and sites. For current rates and a description of accommodations and amenities,

Willemstad, Acoya boast a manmade lake with boardwalk, where various water sports are provided, and the expansive Infinity Pool and deck. There is an onsite dive center and gourmet restaurant, plus a separate coffee shop for breakfast and lunch. All villas and suites come with spacious, fully equipped kitchens. There is also a fitness center and day spa. They provide 24 hour concierge services and free shuttles to town for shopping and entertainment as well as also to the beach.



visit their website, www.curacaoplazahotelcasino.com.

Henry Martijn, Sales Manager of the Acoya facility, due to open in April, detailed this attractive resort's many amenities. It consists of 145 accommodations, including a small percentage of standard studio hotel rooms, but the majority consists of elegant 2-4 bedroom suites and 1-3 bedroom villas which will comfortably accommodate large families and groups.

Situated on a landscaped property of 37,000 square meters in close proximity to

Acoya is offering special discount prices during their opening phase, which applies to rack rates for booking period from now until July 1, for travel times from April 1 to December 19, 2014. Guests wishing to sample their service and accommodations can save 20%.

For more information about Acoya, visit their website: www.acoyacuracao.com. For a complete listing of all of Curacao's special events and many interesting sights, visit the official Curacao Tourist Board website: www.curacao.com.



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Eighteen unaccounted for in deadly US landslide



LOS ANGELES (AFP) - At least 18 people were unaccounted for more than 24 hours after a massive landslide slammed into a mountainside community killing three in the northwestern United States.

Eight people were injured, including a six-month-old infant, when mud, water and rock smashed into the rural

town of Oso, northeast of Seattle, on Saturday, police and firefighters said yesterday. Six homes and much of a highway were destroyed.

The search and salvage operation in the mud-covered terrain was extremely dangerous, the unstable, rain-saturated surface putting emergency personnel at risk of further mudslides.

The Ukraine fears Russia 'ready to attack'

KIEV (AFP) - The Ukraine's Western-backed leaders voiced fears yesterday of an imminent Russian invasion of the eastern industrial heartland following the fall of their last airbase in Crimea to defiant Kremlin troops.

Saturday's takeover involving armoured personnel carriers and stun grenades provided the most spectacular show of force since the Kremlin sent troops into the heavily Russified peninsula three weeks ago before sealing its annexation Friday.

Alarm about a push outside Crimea by Moscow's overwhelming forces -- now conducting drills at the Ukraine's eastern gate -- were fanned further yesterday by a call by its self-declared premier for Russians across the

ex-Soviet country to rise up against Kiev's rule.

The interim leaders in Kiev fear that Russian President Vladimir Putin -- flushed with expansionist fervour -- is developing a sense of impunity after being hit by only limited EU and US sanctions for taking the Black

Sea cape.

Russia's annexation of Crimea has sent hundreds of the region's ethnic Tatars (a native Muslim community of about 300,000) fleeing the peninsula for western Ukraine out of fear of a backlash from Moscow.

Syria condemns Turkey aggression after jet downed

DAMASCUS (AFP) - Syria yesterday accused Ankara of "flagrant aggression" after Turkey shot down a warplane near the border, raising tensions as Syrian loyalists and rebels battled for control of a frontier crossing.

Turkey, which backs the uprising against President Bashar al-Assad, warned Damascus against testing its determination and pledged a tough response if Syrian warplanes violate its airspace again.

It was the most serious incident since Turkish warplanes last September downed a Syrian helicopter

that Ankara said was two kilometers (more than a mile) inside its airspace.

Erdogan and Turkish President Abdullah Gul praised Turkey's military while the foreign ministry warned Damascus "not to test the determination of the Turkish armed forces".

Ankara has notified the United Nations and NATO.

Defence Minister Ismet Yilmaz warned Turkey had the "strength" and "capacity" to protect its borders.

Erdogan also warned Syria saying: "Our response will be heavy if you violate our airspace."

Sightings boost search for missing Malaysia plane

PERTH (AFP) - The sighting of a wooden pallet and other debris that may be linked to a Malaysian passenger jet raised hopes yesterday of a breakthrough in the international search for the missing plane.

The sense that the hunt was finally on the right track after more than two weeks of false leads and dead ends was reinforced by new French satellite data indicating floating objects in the southern search area.

Australian officials said the pallet, along with belts or straps, was spotted Saturday

in a remote stretch of the Indian Ocean that has become the focus of the search -- around 2,500 kilometres (1,500 miles) southwest of Perth.

"It's still too early to be definite," Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott told reporters during a visit to Papua New Guinea.

"But obviously we have now had a number of very credible leads and there is increasing hope -- no more than hope, no more than hope -- that we might be on the road to discovering what did happen to this ill-fated aircraft."

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Unbowed Dutch populist defends 'fewer Moroccans' vow



THE HAGUE (AFP) - An unrepentant Geert Wilders fought back Saturday against a storm of protest and an exodus from within his own anti-Muslim party after he vowed "fewer Moroccans" in the Netherlands.

The platinum-haired populist was forced to deny parallels with Nazi leaders after he was widely perceived as having gone too far in his attack on a specific ethnic group on Wednesday.

"I spoke the truth, I'm not sorry and will not apologise for the truth and expressing my political ideals," Wilders told an impromptu press conference on Saturday evening.

Dutch media have spoken of an "exodus" after the head of his Party for Freedom (PVV) bloc in the European parliament, two Dutch MPs and several councillors quit the party.

The unprecedented storm of protest was sparked when a jovial Wilders on Wednesday promised his chanting supporters he would arrange for there to be fewer Moroccans in the Netherlands.

But an agitated Wilders tried to backpedal on Saturday, saying "I never said all Moroccans should leave the country", only "the criminals and those who want to leave".

"Media and websites and politicians have made comparisons with abject figures from the past," Wilders said, amid widespread comparisons of his words with those of Nazi leaders, including Hitler.

The public prosecutor's office has stopped counting the hundreds of complaints filed against Wilders and police stations have produced partly pre-filled complaint forms targeting Wilders to save

them time.

A Facebook page "I'm filing a complaint against Wilders" had over 93,000 likes by Saturday evening.

"Why? Because we're Dutch like you. We believe in our country and not in sowing hatred," the Facebook page said.

The entire city council of Nijmegen said they would go to the police station to file a discrimination complaint against Wilders, whose PVV party had been the most popular in the Netherlands, according to opinion polls before the furore erupted.

Wilders cancelled a trip to Belgium to meet with the far-right Vlaams Belang party "for security reasons".

The Flemish anti-immigrant party voiced support for Wilders, describing criticism of him as "a black day for freedom and democracy".



Online news attracts star power and big money

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The news media is generating some big news of its own, as a growing number of star US journalists move online, bringing followers and financial backers with them.

Online news sites have been around for years, but in

recent months the trend has gained momentum, defying predictions of a troubled media industry.

The latest was the relaunch of FiveThirtyEight, headed by Nate Silver, a statistician and journalist who made his own headlines with his accurate prediction of the 2012 presidential election.

The site, which covers a range of news with a statistician's eye, is backed by the sports broadcaster ESPN, after Silver left The New York Times with his blog.

Also joining the fray was The Intercept, a news site backed by tech entrepreneur Pierre Omidyar with an editorial team led by Glenn Greenwald, the former Guardian reporter who broke news with documents leaked by former National Security Agency contractor Edward Snowden.

Omidyar has pledged to invest \$250 million in his First Look Media, which includes a not-for-profit news operation and a separate technology arm for new media.

The Washington Post's popular "Wonkblog" columnist Ezra Klein meanwhile left the newspaper to start a

news website backed by Vox Media.

Yahoo wooed television news star Katie Couric and former New York Times tech writer David Pogue. And journalists at The Wall Street Journal-backed tech blog AllThingsD broke off in January to create Re/code, a separate website with support from Comcast's NBCUniversal.

The new energy in Internet news comes as the entrenched news industry faces deepening financial woes, and the model for online profits remains unclear.

So is the news business dying or being reborn?

Alan Mutter, a former Chicago newspaper editor who consults for journalism and technology ventures, said that while traditional newspapers are withering, online news sites may be working.

But the digital news business is likely to be "vertical," covering a segment such as technology, sports or politics, unlike a newspaper, which aims to cover all sectors. Online news can get money from subscriptions, premium content or links to shopping, for example.

135th anniversary of the Battle of Calama



LA PAZ (AFP) - Bolivian President Evo Morales (R) lights a votive flame during a ceremony to commemorate the 135th anniversary of the Battle of Calama in which Bolivia lost its access to the sea to Chile, in La Paz on Sunday. The conflict began as a territorial boundary dispute after the fall of Spanish colonialism, as Chile, Bolivia and Peru were in the process of becoming independent nations. Previously known as the Viceroyalty of Lima and the Charcas Audience, after 1832 a series of political, military and economic interests led to confrontation. What initially detonated the conflict was Bolivia's intention to charge a 10-cent tax per 100-pounds of potassium nitrate (saltpeter) harvested by Chilean companies in the Atacama Desert.

Ebola epidemic spreads to Guinea's capital: UNICEF



CONAKRY (AFP) - An Ebola epidemic which has already killed dozens of people in Guinea's southern forests has spread to the capital Conakry, the United Nations Children's Fund said on Sunday.

"At least 59 out of 80 who contracted Ebola across the West African country have died so far. Over the past few days, the deadly haemorrhagic fever has quickly spread from the communities of Macenta, Gueckedou, and Kissidougou to the capital, Conakry," UNICEF said in a statement emailed to AFP.

Conakry, a vast, sprawling port city on Guinea's Atlantic coast, is estimated to have a population of between 1.5 and two million.

To date, no treatment or

vaccine is available for Ebola, which kills between 25 and 90 percent of those who fall sick, depending on the strain of the virus, according to the World Health Organisation.

The disease is transmitted by direct contact with blood, faeces or sweat, or by sexual contact or unprotected handling of contaminated corpses.

UNICEF said at least three victims of the outbreak, which began on February 9, were children.

The organisation said it had rushed five tonnes of aid, including medical supplies, to the most affected areas in Guinea's south.

"In Guinea, a country with a weak medical infrastructure, an outbreak like this can

be devastating," said the organisation's Guinea representative, Mohamed Ag Ayoya.

The organisation urged Guineans not to attend funerals wherever possible and to avoid all contact with the sick and the dead.

Ebola, one of the world's most virulent diseases, was first discovered in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) in 1976 and the country has had eight outbreaks.

The most recent epidemic, also in the DRC, infected 62 people and left 34 dead between May and November 2012, according to the country's health ministry.

There are fears it could be used in a biological weapons attack.

According to researchers, the virus multiplies quickly, overwhelming the immune system's ability to fight the infection.

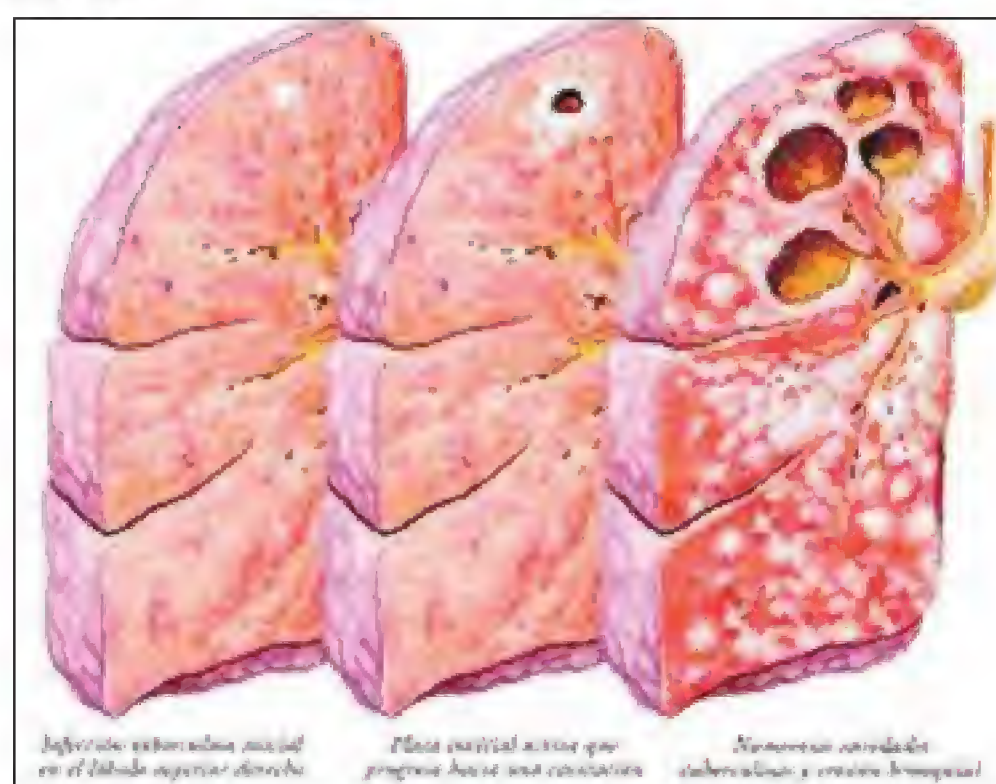
Medical aid group Doctors Without Borders (MSF) said in a statement on Saturday it had set up isolation units for suspected cases in the southern region of Nzerekore and was seeking out people who may have had contacts with the infected.

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India must stop 'irrational' TB treatments: MSF



NEW DELHI (AFP) - India must stop its doctors prescribing "irrational" treatments to cure tuberculosis, medical humanitarian group Medecins Sans Frontieres said Saturday, warning the practice is increasing drug-resistant strains of the disease.

India is already home to the highest number of tuberculosis (TB) sufferers globally with two million cases every year and drug-resistant strains are on the rise, Medecins Sans Frontieres or MSF said in a statement ahead of World TB day Today.

TB patients in India face a potentially "grave risk of developing drug-resistant TB due to irrational prescribing practices", MSF said.

While huge strides have been made in controlling TB worldwide, the emergence of deadly strains that cannot be cured with existing medicines has turned the illness into one of the globe's most urgent health concerns.

India's government has already said it seeking to tackle deepening TB drug resistance with a wide-ranging national diagnostic and treatment programme for the communicable, airborne disease that

usually attacks the lungs.

But MSF urged health authorities to go farther and implement a "standardised first-line daily tuberculosis treatment regimen" in the public and private health sectors.

With public health care services overstretched, many TB patients turn to private doctors who have "never been trained to use TB drugs in a proper way". Leena Menghaney, India coordinator of MSF's Access Campaign, told AFP.

MSF said some prescriptions are "completely inappropriate". "When the patients get to us, they have become resistant to the drugs and it becomes far harder to treat them," Menghaney said.

India, whose vast pharmaceutical industry churns out an ever-growing supply of copycat medicines to combat life-threatening diseases, has the largest private TB drug market.

India's drug regulation is already under heavy fire from US authorities over another issue -- worries about the quality of the country's medicines following a string of recalls.



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Rolling Stones plan Paris gig after postponing tour Down Under

PARIS (AFP) - The Rolling Stones Sunday said they will play Paris' Stade de France in June for the first time since 2007, after postponing a tour Down Under due to the death of Mick Jagger's girlfriend.

The British band will play a single gig in France's national stadium in Paris on June 13 as part of their 14 On Fire tour, according to a statement from their French promoter.

The Stones already have a string of dates planned across Europe for June, including in Germany, The Netherlands, Belgium and Italy.

Their promoter said Sunday several more European concerts would shortly be announced for May, June and July.

The news comes after the Stones postponed their tour of Australia and New



Zealand on Tuesday after the shock death of Jagger's girlfriend L'Wren Scott.

The grieving frontman is being comforted by his daughters in Los Angeles after the former model turned fashion designer was found hanged in her luxury apartment on Monday.

The band has promised to reschedule dates in Australia and New Zealand "as soon as possible".

The iconic rock outfit returned to the stage in late 2012 after years of absence to celebrate its 50th anniversary with a series of concerts in England and the United States.

Two more colossal pharaoh statues unveiled in Egypt



LUXOR (AFP) - Archaeologists on Sunday unveiled two colossal statues of Pharaoh Amenhotep III in Egypt's famed temple city of Luxor, adding to an existing pair of world-renowned tourist attractions.

The two monoliths in red quartzite were raised at what European and Egyptian archaeologists said were their original sites in the funerary temple of the king, on the west bank of the Nile.

The temple is already famous for its existing 3,400-year-old Memnon colossi -- twin statues of Amenhotep III whose reign archaeologists say marked the political and cultural zenith of ancient Egyptian civilisation.

"The world until now knew two Memnon colossi, but from today it will know four colossi of Amenhotep III," said German-Armenian archaeologist Hourig Sourouzian, who heads the project to conserve the Amenhotep III temple.

The existing two statues, both showing the pharaoh seated, are known across the globe.

The two restored additions have weathered severe damage for centuries, Sourouzian said.

One of the "new" statues -- its body weighing 250 tonnes -- again depicts the pharaoh seated, hands resting on his knees.

It is 11.5 metres (38 feet) tall, with a base 1.5 metres high and 3.6 metres wide.

Archaeologists said with its now missing double crown, the original statue would have reached a height of 13.5 metres and weighed 450 tonnes.

The king is depicted wearing a royal pleated kilt held at the waist by a large belt decorated with zigzag lines.

Pharaoh Amenhotep III inherited an empire that spanned from the Euphrates to Sudan, archaeologists say, and he was able to maintain Egypt's position mainly through diplomacy.

The 18th dynasty ruler became king at the age of around 12, with his mother as regent.

Amenhotep III died in around 1354 BC and was succeeded by his son Amenhotep IV, widely known as Akhenaten.

Luxor, a city of some 500,000 people on the banks of the Nile in southern Egypt, is an open-air museum of intricate temples and pharaonic tombs.

'Thor' actor Hemsworth welcomes newborn twins



LOS ANGELES (AFP) - Australian actor Chris Hemsworth and his wife are celebrating the arrival of twin baby boys in Los Angeles, a spokesman for the "Thor" star said. Elsa Pataky gave birth to the boys -- who will join a 22-month-old daughter the couple already have -- on Thursday in Los Angeles's Cedars Sinai hospital. Spokesman Robin Baum confirmed the new arrivals but gave no further details. The TMZ celebrity news website reported there was tight security at the celebrity hospital, with two security guards outside their room's door and another accompanying Hemsworth. The hunk actor -- the star of two "Thor" films as well as 2012's record-breaking "The Avengers" -- married Spanish model/actress Pataky in 2010. Born in Melbourne, the 30-year-old appeared in Australian soap "Home and Away" and made his big-screen debut in 2009's "Star Trek." But it was the "Thor" movies that catapulted him to wider prominence. He is the older brother of "Hunger Games" actor Liam Hemsworth. Their older brother Luke is also an actor, mostly on television including in Australian soap "Neighbours."

TAJ MAHAL; Taste of INDIA - If you like your Indian food authentic, or are looking for a new and unique dining experience, an evening at Taj Mahal will deliver a memorable meal. A seemingly endless menu offers scores of choices for fish, chicken, lamb and vegetarian dishes that are "the real deal;" discover that Indian food goes way beyond curry!

Taj Mahal's Tai Choice is a great way to start the meal and be initiated into the joys of Indian cuisine, offering a diverse selection of traditional favorites. It contains hearty portions of Pakoras, crispy vegetarian fritters, Aloo Tikki, potato cutlets, Chicken Tikka, tender chicken breast pieces seasoned just right, and shaped and seasoned ground lamb, charmingly dubbed "Sheik Kebabs." All is served on a bed of sliced onions and brought to your table on a sizzling platter, and you will want to dish those sautéed onions on to one of their tasty Indian breads called Naan, leaving behind not a single crumb.

Main dishes are accompanied by a choice of rice, mixed vegetables rich with garlic, or Naan, plain, buttered, onion or garlic, and you will want to order an extra basket or two of this tasty delight, on which you can spoon your main course, as well. Poori

is crispy fried naan, and most definitely worth the extra two dollars to sample with your meal.

Located behind the Royal Plaza Mall, Taj Mahal offers a dining experience that is truly out of the ordinary; they feature an excellent and tasty selection for vegetarians too. If you are a fan of Indian food, or have been toying with trying it, Taj Mahal is the place for a very affordable dining experience and the real deal!

Call 588-4494 for reservations.





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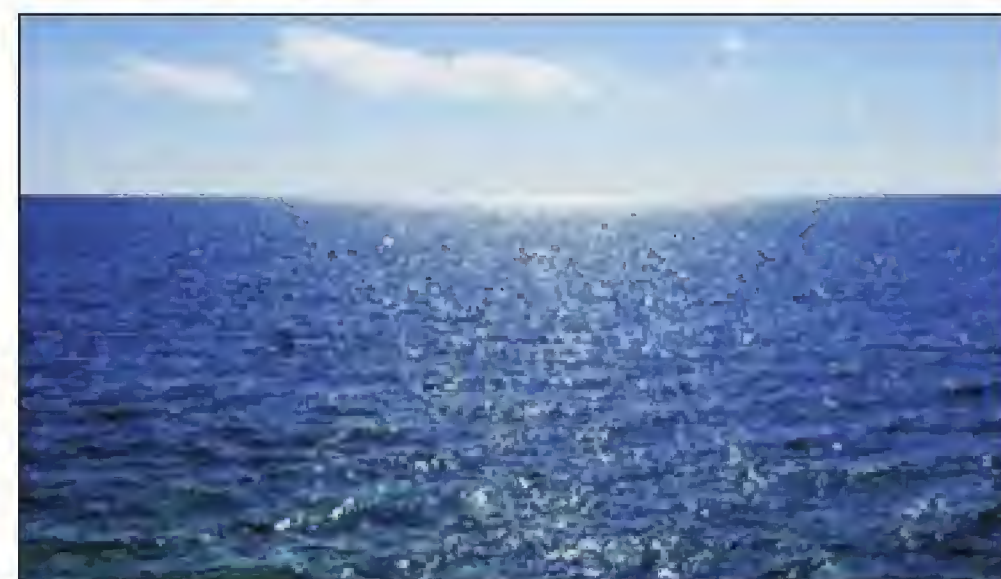
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World faces 'water-energy' crisis: UN



TOKYO (AFP) - Surging populations and economies in the developing world will cause a double crunch in demand for water and energy in the coming decades, the UN said.

In a report published Friday, on the eve of World Water Day, it said the cravings for clean water and electricity were intertwined and could badly strain Earth's limited resources.

Already, 768 million people do not have access to a safe, reliable source of water, 2.5 billion do not have decent sanitation and more than 1.3 billion do not have mains electricity.

About 20 percent of the world's aquifers today are depleted, according to the UN report. Agriculture accounts for more than two-thirds of water use.

The World Water Development Report, the fifth in the series by the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), is an overview collated from data from scientific studies and investigations by agencies.

It said ever more freshwater will be needed for farming, construction, drinking, cooking, washing and sewerage, but also for energy production -- 90 percent of which uses water-intensive techniques today.

The report gave this snapshot of the future:

- Global water demand is likely to increase by 55 percent by 2050.

- By then, more than 40 percent of the world's popu-

lation will be living in areas of "severe" water stress, many of them in the broad swathe of land from North Africa and the Middle East to western South Asia.

- Asia will be the biggest hotspot for bust-ups over water extraction, where water sources straddle national borders. "Areas of conflict include the Aral Sea and the Ganges-Brahmaputra River, Indus River and Mekong River basins," said the report.

- Global energy demand is expected to grow by more than a third by 2035, with China, India and Middle Eastern countries accounting for 60 percent of the increase.

- In 2010, energy production gobbled up 66 billion cubic metres (2,300 billion cu. feet) of fresh water -- more than the average annual flow of the River Nile in Egypt.

By 2035, this consumption could rise by 85 percent, driven by power plant cooling systems that work with water.

The review called for a global effort in efficiency gains, pointing the finger at the arid countries of the Middle East where between 15 and 60 percent of water is wasted through leaks or evaporation even before the consumer opens the tap.

The report also called for smart choices in allocating the trillions of dollars likely to be invested in water and energy infrastructure over the next two decades.

G7 Ukraine summit won't affect nuclear talks: Dutch PM



THE HAGUE (AFP) - Leaders of 53 countries gather in The Hague on Monday and Tuesday for the third bi-annual NSS, brainchild of US President Barack Obama and aimed at preventing a terrorist nuclear attack and reducing the world's non-military nuclear materials. But the summit risks being overshadowed by the escalating Ukraine crisis, with Obama himself last week calling for the G7 meet amid an escalating showdown with Russia. G7 leaders from Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the US will meet on Monday afternoon, leaving Tuesday free to discuss securing the world's stocks of nuclear material to prevent a group like Al-Qaeda acquiring a nuclear or so-called 'dirty' bomb of conventional explosives wrapped in radioactive material. "These kind of conferences are often a good opportunity to discuss other issues. Ukraine is one of those issues," Rutte said. He said leaders were expected to hammer out a so-called "nuclear security architecture" plan to ensure that nuclear material "did not fall into the wrong hands." The Netherlands, South Korea and the United States want to draw together best practice guidelines approved by the International Atomic Energy Agency for nuclear safety and security in a package that countries attending the summit can sign up to, although this is not expected to be included in the final statement. New topics of discussion following the last NSS in Seoul in 2012 include the forensics of tracing non-military nuclear material and the private sector's role in securing nuclear material. "We need to do everything we can to prevent nuclear terrorism and we have come here with a strong will to do so," Rutte said. Nuclear security is central to Obama's political legacy and in 2009 he called it "one of the greatest threats to international security." The final NSS is planned in Washington in 2016.

Aruba Central Bank to conduct Consumer Confidence Survey

ORANJESTAD -- During the period of March 21 through April 6, 2014 the Centrale Bank van Aruba (CBA) will conduct the Consumer Confidence Survey (CCS) for the first quarter. The CCS consists of 21 short multiple choice questions relating to the Aruban population's perception of and expectation on the state of the Aruban economy and on its spending habit.

The CCS provides the CBA with valuable information used for its macro-economic analyses and forecasts, and helps as well in determining the sentiments of Aruban consumers, which furthers the CBA's understanding of domestic economic developments. The CCS may also aid policy makers when determining economic and financial policies and actions. The results



of this period will be compared with the previous surveys to analyze the change in the population's sentiments.

During this period, a group of 5 interviewers, hired by the CBA, will survey a total of 400 respondents in order to gather the important data. Interviewers will be stationed at several strategic locations on the island, such as the civil registry office and the post office, carrying an identification badge and a notification letter as proof that they are working on behalf of the CBA. Due to the simplic-

ity of the questions (e.g., would you say that you (and your household) are better off or worse off financially than you were 6 months ago?), the interview should not take more than 10 minutes to complete.

Given the importance of the CCS for Aruba, the CBA calls upon the Aruban public to fully cooperate with this survey. The interviewed persons can be assured that the CBA will treat the information gathered in this survey with the highest level of confidentiality, and the results will be published in an aggregated form only.

For further information please contact Mr. Jonathan Upegui (tel. 5252215; e-mail j.uegui@cbaruba.org) of the Research Department of the CBA.

Daily Exchange Rates				
Current as of:	Currency Code	Buying rate banknotes	Buying Cheques	Selling Rate
03/23/2014				
U.S.A.	USD	1.77	1.78	1.80
Dutch Antilles	ANG	92.00	100.00	100.20
Canada	CAD	1.77	1.79	1.81
Britain	GBP	2.80	2.85	2.98
Switzerland	CHF	191.71	192.43	202.88
Netherlands	EUR	230.59	232.69	247.90
Sweden	SEK	25.91	26.63	28.26
Denmark	DKK	30.23	30.95	33.44
Norway	NOK	30.67	31.39	29.87
Japan	JPY	214.88	216.84	175.73
(per 10,000)				
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Myanmar salt industry to collapse, experts fear



MAEKAYE : Salt farmers in Ayeyarwady Region collect salt from the fields. Some 70 percent of salt used by the whole country is produced in the Irrawaddy Division. Myanmar's once-booming salt industry, destroyed by Cyclone Nargis, will be completely wiped out within a couple of years unless it receives financial aid from the government, industry experts warn.

Disgruntled Israeli diplomats stage global work stoppage

JERUSALEM (AFP) - Israeli foreign ministry employees yesterday intensified a long-running dispute over pay and conditions declaring a full-scale strike at home and at diplomatic missions around the world.

"The ministry in Jerusalem will remain closed and Israel's missions abroad will not open as of Monday morning, March 24," its website said.

Israel media said the open-ended walkout was the first by diplomats in the country's 65-year history. The latest step ratcheted up industrial action that has been in place since the wage talks on March 4.

The ministry website said

that since then diplomats have not dealt "with foreign representatives... official visits of any kind, either in Israel or overseas," nor issued visas or provided consular services.

SATURDAY'S Crossword Answer

RAH	TBSP	PADS		
ISA	HAIR	URIS		
BAY	AIDE	RIOT		
WAIL	CLEAR			
TROY	SNEER			
HAREM	ODE	RAF		
ONT	CATER	EKE		
UGH	CPR	SUSIE		
BOED	SENT			
CHERYL	RHEA			
ROLE	OPIE	RPM		
ALLA	GILA	COO		
MEEK	YELL	HEE		

Tear gas fired in fresh Venezuela protests

CARACAS (AFP) - Police fired tear gas and made several arrests as 20,000 people marched on the weekend in the Venezuelan capital Caracas against what they say is President Nicolas Maduro's heavy-handed repression of dissent.

Three protesters were killed by pro-government militia in separate attacks in the states of Tachira, Merida and Carabobo, according to

unconfirmed local media reports citing witnesses.

At least 31 people have been killed in more than six weeks of student-led protests against the government, representing the biggest challenge yet to Maduro, the elected socialist heir to late president Hugo Chavez.

Maduro and his government have been the target of near-daily protests fueled by public anger over soaring

crime, hyperinflation and shortages of such basic goods as toilet paper and further stoked by overzealous police tactics.

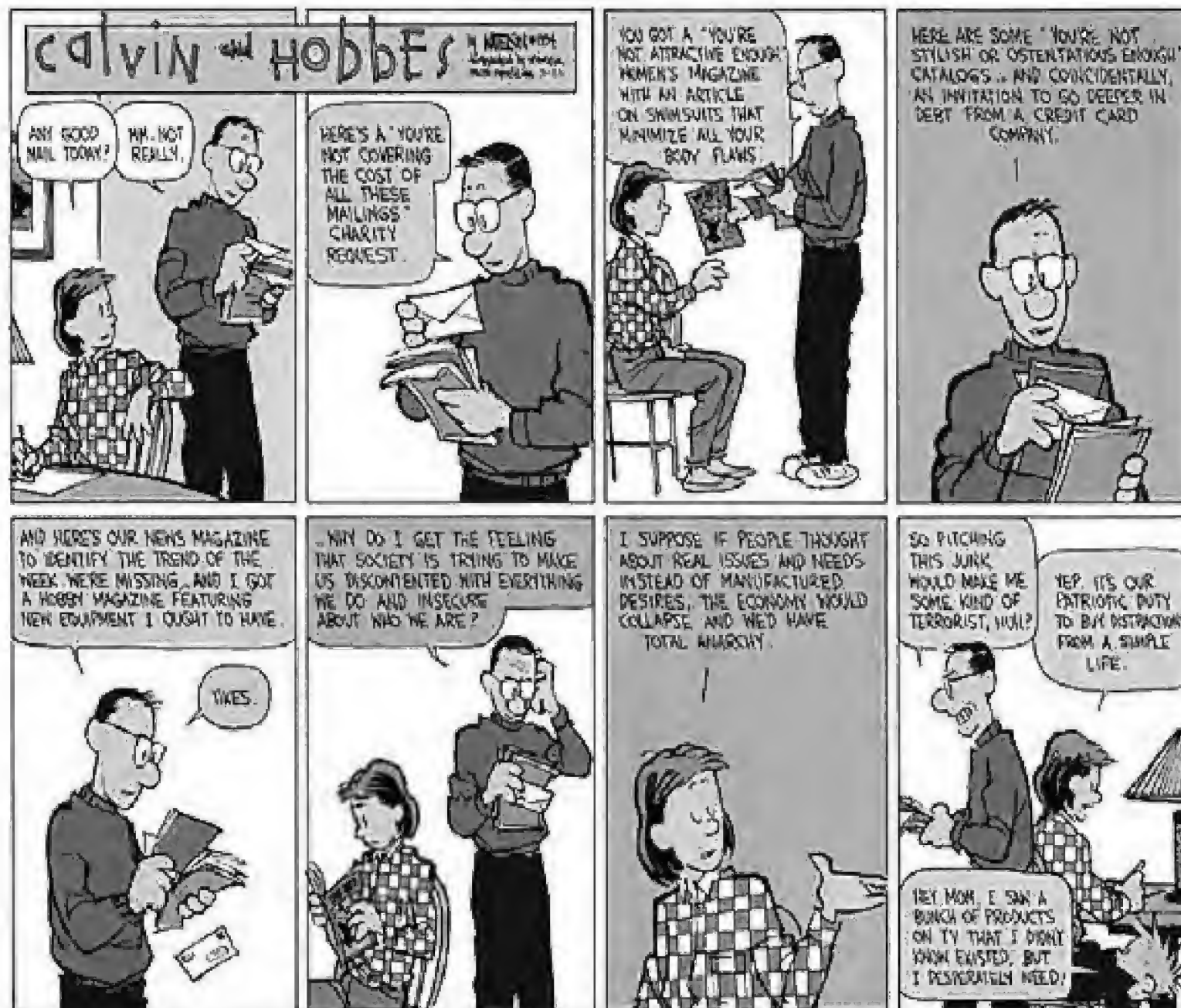
Demonstrators are also angry at oil-rich Venezuela's close ties to Cuba, the only Communist one-party state in the Americas.

The protest was called after two opposition mayors were arrested earlier in the week.

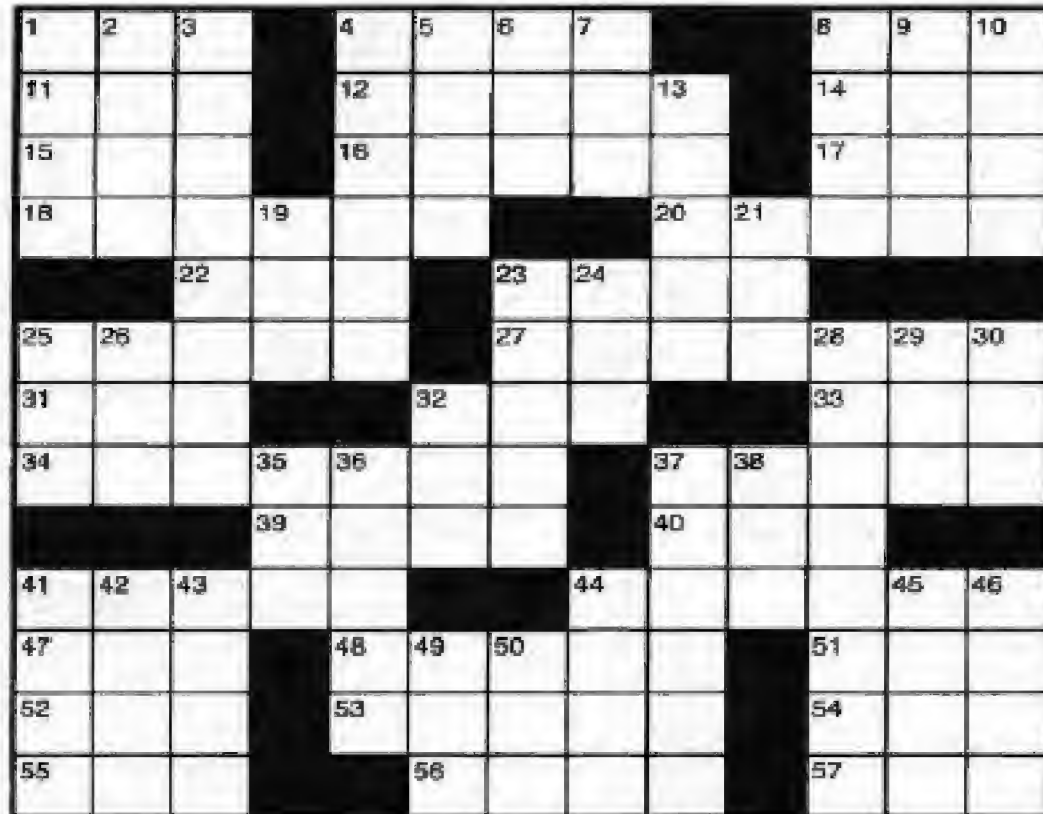


BERLIN : Germany's largest roof top solar power project to a cohesive residential community is pictured in Berlin-Lichtenberg's "Yellow Quarter" district. Hundreds of tenants are directly supplied with power from the roof.

COMICS



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- ACROSS**
- Best on a team (abbr.)
 - Emperor
 - Cereal ingredient
 - Televise
 - Transistor ____
 - Cable option (abbr.)
 - "____ Got Sixpence"
 - ____ Downs
 - Sister
 - Sprints
 - Gush
 - Tot
 - Word on a waffle box
 - Rapture
 - Like Buster Keaton's face
 - Apparatus
 - FBI investigator (abbr.)
 - Do wrong
 - Run machinery
 - Must, informally
 - Tankard fillers
 - Switch positions
 - Watched covertly
 - Film star Betty of the '40s
 - "Kilroy ____ here"
 - Internet correspondence (hyph.)
 - ____-of-a-kind (unique)
 - Frazier's rival
 - ____ Dame
 - Border
 - "You bet!"
 - Robert Frost, e.g.
 - Ike's theater
- DOWN**
- Alice, to the Bradys
 - "____ Zapata!"
 - High standing
 - Religious beliefs
 - Microwaves, informally
 - Magazine clutter
 - River, in Madrid
 - Shout of dismay (2 wds.)
 - Touch on
 - Musical sound
 - Last Greek letter
 - Owens
 - In vogue
 - Margins
 - "____ Shorty" (Travolta film)
 - Sis's sib
 - Pitcher spout
 - Pup's home, for a time (2 wds.)
 - Museum display
 - '30s relief agency (abbr.)
 - Broke bread
 - Comedienne Charlotte ____
 - Pilgrim John
 - Singer Robert
 - Canadian prov.
 - Influence
 - Lose color
 - Wife of Osiris
 - Take on
 - "Put a lid ____!" (2 wds.)
 - Lost Disney fish
 - Swabbie's tool
 - From ____ Z (2 wds.)



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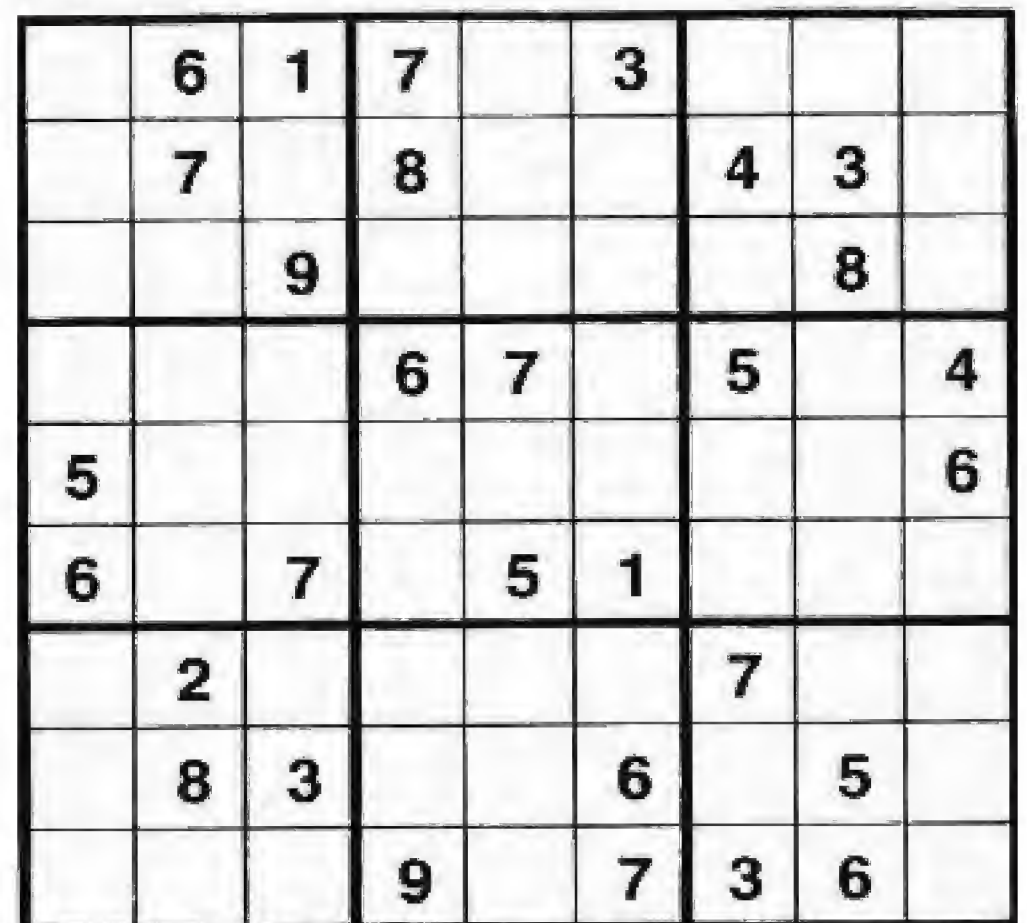
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582-5447
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SOLUTION

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6	5	1	9	2	7	5	8	4
8	7	4	9	1	3	2	6	5
5	6	9	1	5	2	4	7	3
9	2	7	6	8	1	3	5	4
7	1	9	8	4	9	2	6	5
4	9	3	1	9	8	6	7	2
1	6	8	6	8	9	5	2	7
5	2	6	5	7	4	1	9	8

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9

Gold Coast Aruba: This is the time to invest

--Management of Gold Coast Aruba, the island's newest and most innovative gated community, reports that sales have been very good and encouraging as the global economy recovers and people looking to purchase vacation homes have found that Gold Coast is an outstanding investment value. Director of Sales, Fito Croes has noticed a surprising percentage of owners in reality do not spend a great amount of time personally to use the villas or town homes they purchase, but are taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their 'home away from home' in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," he remarked, "but I am gratified by how many are buying because they felt secure with real estate investment on Aruba. They really study the history and economy of the island and are impressed with the political stability and continually increasing value of prime locations. Gold Coast is in the heart of Malmok, considered Aruba's most exclusive community where the value of properties has only increased over time. It is only minutes to the best beaches and all the ac-



tion, and yet offers a quiet and secluded getaway, we are very pleased by the response to our concept."

Fito, with his sister Mayrin and brother Rudy operate Cas Bon, which has been constructing homes and building developments for all budgets for nearly twenty years. "Gold Coast Aruba is the jewel in our crown," observes Fito. "We were very excited about this project and the scope of actual and planned facilities and amenities. We have spoken to countless island visitors to find out what they would really want in a permanent residence on Aruba, and took from there."

Input from frequent vacationers who have dreamed of their own home in Aruba contributed to the realization of

Gold Coast Aruba which when complete will be a community of 260 town homes, villas and condominiums with a stunning clubhouse complemented by two additional community pool areas. The Clubhouse is about to start construction and will offer to the community homeowners and visitors 2 tennis courts, full service spa and fitness center as well as a stunning pool area, also restaurant and mini-market.

Owners who purchased upon the groundbreaking only a few short years ago, are already enjoying a nearly 50% appreciation on their investment, particularly those taking advantage of the on site management's rental services program. There is always a great demand for Aruba and facilities such as those at Gold

Coast, make it easy for some owners to see a valuable return on their investment.

The design of the residences and public areas is open, airy and spacious, taking full advantage of the island environment, with quality construction and finishing available. Partnering with two of Aruba's top providers of kitchens and bathrooms enables developers to offer custom options allowing buyers to individualize their homes. An elegant and chic furniture package is available or island designers will assist owners in finishing the décor to their specific tastes.

There are many aspects to purchasing property; not the least is the future value of the investment. To further enhance

this, Gold Coast management have inaugurated a number of in-house services and have recently become affiliated Interval International, the world's largest network of vacation ownership properties which provides an unlimited international pool of investors to tap for ownership and rental prospects. Property exchange for a vacation in another destination is also available through the Interval International affiliation. Gold Coast's own rental services have also proven highly successful in assisting owners in renting their villas; 24-hour security and maintenance services also tip the scales when it is time to make a decision. Aside from all this, housekeeping, child care, catering services, car rental through its partnership with AVIS car rental are also available as well as pre-shopping services so cupboards and refrigerators are stocked upon arrival, which can also be arranged through their property management department. Personnel are also available to assist in arranging restaurant reservations and island activities.

Visit their website: www.goldcoastaruba.com

for more details and availability or call 586-2200 to arrange a personal tour.

Steak on a Stone-Le Petit Café's specialty



--In a time when dining choices and critiques are based on value for your dollar, an old favorite, Le Petit Café, still offers one of the best values not only in price, but quality, quantity and ambiance.

Taking advantage of their Early Bird Special not only offers a great price for a delicious meal, but put you in the right place at the right time to enjoy Aruba's most spectacu-

lar dinner.

The Early Bird special offers a choice of a full sized chicken breast, a hefty portion of filet mignon or fresh grouper fillet accompanied by a well-stuffed baked potato, rice or french fries. There is a choice of soup or salad as a starter, and ice cream for dessert, all for a modest \$24.95; an unbeatable price for a great meal on Aruba!

Cooking your main course on the stone is a supremely healthy method of preparation, seasoned to perfection and using no fats or oils. Fish in particular is excellent, extremely moist and tasty. A thick cut of filet mignon usually requires cutting into smaller sections to cook fully, especially if your preference is medium-well to well done.

Le Petit Café is particularly well known for its "Land and Sea" specialty, filet mignon and lobster tail, a gourmet treat when served in their signature fashion. The restaurant also offers a diverse menu of pastas and tempting gourmet appetizers such as seafood crepes, crispy calamari, and escargot. For family members in the mood for something different there are several dishes to choose from, such as chicken parmesan, so a large family with different ideas of what they want for dinner can easily be accommodated.

We all know that breakfast is the most important meal of



Fish on a Stone

the day, and Le Petit Café has also long been famous for the best value for breakfast on Aruba. They still offer a full breakfast for \$9.99, another unbeatable value!

Le Petit Café located at Playa Linda Beach Resort in Palm Beach offers charming surroundings reminiscent of a European outdoor café. Surrounded by Old World gaslights and an abundance

of flora, it provides a delightful and romantic setting.

Open from Monday thru Saturday and on Sunday's only for Dinner. telf-5864046.

So whether you are staying in Oranjestad, Palm Beach or Eagle Beach, a La Petit Café restaurant can be found easily from you resort, a perfect way to begin or end your day!

Motorcycling: World champion Marquez edges Rossi in Qatar thriller

DOHA (AFP) - World champion Marc Marquez won the season-opening Qatar Grand Prix on Sunday just a month after breaking his leg.

The Honduran rider fought off a thrilling, wheel-to-wheel challenge from nine-time champion Valentino Rossi on a Yamaha to win by just 0.259sec.

Dani Pedrosa, on the second factory Honda, took third.

Marquez, who broke his right leg in a dirt-bike accident in his native Spain at the end of February, came into the new season having become the youngest ever world champion in 2013.

Rossi, seeking what would have been his 81st win in the elite MotoGP class, said he could take a lot out of the race, having been written off



last season as a spent force.

In a thrilling race beneath the Losail circuit floodlights, 2010 and 2012 world champion Jorge Lorenzo was done and dusted inside the first lap.

The Spaniard, the runner-up to Marquez in the 2013 world championship, had

started in fifth place but snatched the lead on the first bend.

However, he suffered a dramatic race-ending crash at the end of the opening lap on his factory Yamaha which must have been painful for a man who twice broke his collarbone last year.

Golf: Palmer, Player among new Hall of Fame selectors

ORLANDO (AFP) - A revamped selection process for induction to the World Golf Hall of Fame was announced Sunday, one that features Arnold Palmer and Gary Player on a 16-member selection committee.

The new criteria, somewhat tougher for PGA players and easier for LPGA players than prior systems, will begin with consideration this year for the Class of 2015.

Induction will become a biennial event starting next year, with the subsequent ceremony in 2017, when Tiger Woods will first be eligible under the new rules.

Men's and women's players would need to be 40 years old, have 15 wins on globally significant tours and at least two major titles to merit consideration.

The selection committee will be co-chaired by Palmer, Player and retired LPGA stars Nancy Lopez and Annika Sorenstam.

The LPGA's selection process had been seen as so rigorous that it might have kept the number of women members too small considering the global growth of the women's game.

South Africa's Player, like Palmer one of the Hall's original inductees in 1974, was pleased that the selection committee has representation from the US and European PGA Tours, the LPGA, Masters, R&A, US Golf Association, PGA of America, global tours in Japan and South Africa and international media.

Jack Peter, the World Golf Hall of Fame chief operating officer, said the decision to revamp came as part of a periodic review process of criteria.

Pistorius trial:

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) - The murder trial of Paralympian Oscar Pistorius for shooting dead his model girlfriend will extend weeks longer than expected, with a long list of prosecution and defence witnesses yet to take the stand.

The trial was supposed to have wrapped up by now, but a court statement on Sunday said the highly-publicised hearings could extend as late as May 16.

The Pistorius affair has gripped South Africans ever since Valentine's Day last year when the 27-year-old claims he shot 29-year-old Reeva Steenkamp through a locked toilet door in his Pretoria home after mistaking her for an intruder.

As the celebrity case heads into a fourth week and beyond on Monday, all eyes will be on the expected testimony of the sprinter himself, though the exact date for that is unknown.

After 13 days of hearings, broadcast live on national television, the court has heard only 18 witnesses and the trial is now set to rival South Africa's general elections on May 7 for the country's attention.



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Tennis: Federer, Murray cruise through Miami sweatshop

MIAMI (AFP) - Two-time winner Roger Federer and defending champion Andy Murray eased into the fourth round of the ATP and WTA Miami Masters, producing efficient wins in heat and humidity Sunday.

Fifth-ranked Federer pounded Dutchman Thiemo de Bakker 6-3, 6-3 in just over an hour while British sixth seed Murray downed practice partner Feliciano Lopez 6-4, 6-1.

Ivan Lendl, the coach from whom Murray parted company in recent days, was sitting in the player box to watching his former protegee's triumph.

Federer was all business against the free-swinging de Bakker, whom he has now beaten once in each of the last three seasons.

Murray polished his record to 9-0 over Spaniard Lopez in only 73 minutes. The Scotsman, who does much of his off-season training in Miami, improved to 21-6 in his part-time hometown.

Murray will line up next against French 11th seed Jo-Wilfried Tsonga, who outlasted Marcos Baghdatis 4-6, 7-6 (8/6), 7-5.

Murray has won eight of their nine ATP meetings, the most recent last year on grass at Queen's.

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EARLY BIRD SPECIAL

International Go Karting celebrity Peter de Bruijn would like to see Aruba become a world destination for the sport



PM Mike Eman and Peter de Bruijn



PM Eman behind the wheel

ORANJESTAD - Aruba has a go karting course in Bushiri with the potential of hosting world class events, in the opinion of an icon of the sport, Peter de Bruijn. The founder of the PDB team, a former racing champ and technician who played a large part in revolutionizing and popularizing the sport, was on Aruba for the go-kart rally conducted in Madiki by the AVP Party as part of their celebration of Aruba's National Day, March 18.

Mr. de Bruijn sat with THE MORNING NEWS to discuss his history in the sport, and what he observed during his short stay on Aruba. He revealed he had vacationed here more than a decade past, and was then somewhat impressed with the Bushiri Go Kart facility. He could not resist, even then, investigating the state

of the sport on the island.

Peter started racing go-karts at the age of 12. His meeting Ruud Hoffman, who had a homemade chassis powered by West Bend 100cc engine at the Grand Prix circuit of Zandvoort, was a turning point. Peter's father purchased the kart for the boy, but before he could try it out, the chassis needed to be serviced. This is when Peter's love for design and the mechanics began. His father would not let him drive his first go kart until Peter completely dismantled it and then re-assembled it again. "It took me two months before I could take it to the track and drive it."

De Bruijn's talent for the equipment attracted the interest of other drivers. In 1972, Leo van Calcar from Rotterdam, former 100cc ICA Dutch Champion, saw his great potential and decided to help him with his engines his driving skills. Despite lack of experience, he just missed a podium finish at the World Junior Championship in Vojens (DK) in 1972 when the sparkplug cap fell off. The following year, at the World Junior Championship in Oldenzaal (NL), Peter was second behind Alain Prost, when his carburetor spindle broke. Finally, in 1975, de Bruijn won the Dutch Championship with his homemade "Bruno" chassis and Komet engines, starting his long list of victories. He founded his go kart company in 1978, a small, one-man shop at the time. He concedes he quit competition in 1988 because it "was time to make room for the next generation."

Ending his driving career, De Bruijn concentrated solely

on the technical side of the sport. In 1997 he founded a racing team with Lotta Hellberg, another go-karting icon and champion driver, who unfortunately passed away in 2005, at the age of 34, from cancer.

De Bruijn admits that at the time when he started racing, he was a youngster among competitors, but now they are beginning as young as five and six years old, with equipment being manufactured to accommodate their size. "Go-Karting had only been established as a sport for perhaps ten years when I began, but I was not so young compared to now." He recalled that it started in the U.S. around 1956, and it was brought to Europe by members of the military, who started racing around the tarmac of their airfields. "When I started racing there were perhaps 110 drivers in Holland; now there must be more than 50 times that."

His invitation to Aruba came from Prime Minister Eman personally. The PM had sought him out while visiting Holland, to finally meet with him and arrange to purchase his newest top model off the assembly line. It had to be shipped to and arrive on Aruba within a matter of days, in time for the March 18 rally, and De Bruijn delivered it personally to the Prime Minister the day of the race.

De Bruijn admits to some trepidations to the leader of a country driving one of his karts for the first time during a street race. "There are always difficulties with street racing compared to a groomed course," he explained. "The track here, for

a street circuit, is quite okay." However, there will always be inherent hazards when driving on the street, including possible potholes, cracks in the asphalt and other factors that could interfere with the balance of the karts, particularly on the turns. "You have to accept it, that is just part of street racing." Additionally, the PM was on the road with at least twenty-five other racers, all vying for position, a large number of which were not experienced drivers.

When Prime Minister Eman arrived he was "very calm, tranquil, quite ready to race," noted De Bruijn, "but I could see in his eyes, he wanted to win, which concerned me, that he might take risks." De Bruijn was quite relieved when he observed the PM cross the finish line safe and sounds, as well as triumphant.

He expressed that with just a bit of work, the Bushiri track could be a world class facility, but is in need of proper pits for the support crews and additional and improved stands for the spectators. The track itself he described as "as good as or surpassing many of the grand prix tracks we have in Europe." De Bruijn and his wife look forward to supporting efforts to promote the sport on Aruba and perhaps, eventually, have the island find a place on the world pro circuit. "The people here have been absolutely wonderful to us. We are looking toward plans for the future, perhaps founding a racing school here. We most definitely will be back to Aruba."

by Rosalie Klein

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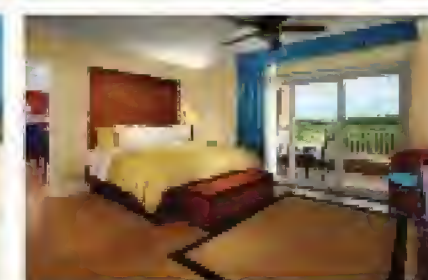
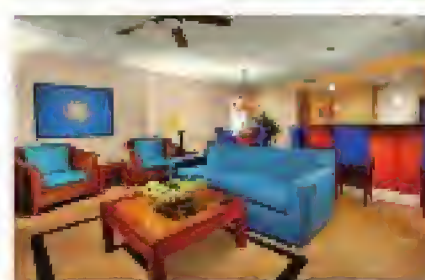
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Football: Messi becomes all-time top scorer in El Clasico

MADRID - (AFP) - Four-time World Player of the Year Lionel Messi became the all-time leading scorer in games between Barcelona and Real Madrid with his 19th in the 'El Clasico' fixture on Sunday.

The Argentine capped an enthralling first-half as he struck five minutes before the break to make the score 2-2.

Messi surpasses compatriot and Real legend Alfredo di Stefano's mark of 18 in his 27th game against Madrid.

Barcelona moved to within a point of Real Madrid at the top of La Liga as they twice came from behind thanks to a Lionel Messi hat-trick to edge a thrilling El Clasico 4-3 at the Santiago Bernabeu.

The sides went in level 2-2 at half-time as a record 19th goal against Madrid from Messi cancelled out Karim



Benzema's double after Andres Iniesta had put Barca in front.

Cristiano Ronaldo then put Madrid back in front from the penalty spot, but the hosts were reduced to 10-men when Sergio Ramos pulled down Neymar inside the box 10 minutes later and Messi levelled once more from the spot.

And the Argentine won the game with another penalty seven minutes from time after Iniesta had been felled by Xabi Alonso.

A first defeat for Real in 32 games means Atletico Madrid remain top of the table thanks to their better head-to-head record against Los Blancos with Barca still in third.

Baseball: Scherzer rejects Tigers' long-term offer



LAKELAND (AFP) - Detroit Tigers pitcher Max Scherzer, last year's Cy Young award winner as the American League's best pitcher, has rejected a long-term Major League Baseball contract offer from the Tigers. The 29-year-old American right-hander agreed to a one-year deal reportedly worth \$15.25 million in January for the 2014 season but would become a free agent after the season. Talks regarding a long-term offer went nowhere and the team said Sunday they would halt such negotiations until after the season. Scherzer was 21-3 last year with a 2.90 earned-run average and 240 strikeouts over 32 starts, becoming the second Tiger named top pitcher after Justin Verlander won the 2011 Cy Young Award. Verlander agreed to a five-year extension with an option for 2020 last year but the Tigers have been unable to reach such a deal with Scherzer's agent, Scott Boras. Scherzer is 64-30 with a 3.62 earned-run average over 128 starts for the Tigers. Overall, Scherzer has a career mark of 73-45 with a 3.67 earned-run average and 1,069 strikeouts in 1,019 innings over 174 games.